

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2725
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2022

SECDEF FOR OASD(ISA), OASD(C3-I), ODDR&E(IP)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MARR, ETEL
SUBJECT: 4 APRIL NADREP MEETING TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS

REF: (A) USNATO 1986 DTG 061425Z APR 77; (B) USNATO 1825 DTG
301715Z MAR 77

SUMMARY: ON 4 APRIL, THE NADREPS AGAIN DISCUSSED ISSUES CONCERNING THE FORMATION OF THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS (TSG). THE UK REP TABLED A UK TALKING PAPER WHICH CONTAINED THREE SIGNIFICANT POINTS: THE TSG SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH SINGLE-SERVICE MATTERS; THE OTHER MAIN GROUPS OF THE CNAD MAY REQUEST THE TSG TO UNDERTAKE TASKS ON THEIR BEHALF; AND PANEL VIII OF THE NAAG (ANOTHER ARMY ARMAMENTS GROUP) WOULD BECOME FORMALLY SUBORDINATE TO THE TSG THOUGH AVAILABLE TO ADVISE THE NAAG. THE BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS REPS SUGGESTED THAT THE THREE POINTS WERE SELF-CONTRADICTING AND ASKED

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FOR CLARIFICATION FROM THE UK REP. THE UK REP COULD NOT CLARIFY THE CONTRADICTION. CANADA LIFTED ITS PREVIOUS RESERATION AND AGREED TO TRANSFER OF PANEL VIII TO THE TSG. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, THE NADREPS ONCE AGAIN DISCUSSED THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE TSG AND STATUS OF PANEL VIII AT THEIR 4 APRIL MEETING. THE UK REP TABLED A POSITION PAPER (TEXT FOLLOWS) IN RESPONSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PROPOSAL REPORTED

IN REF B.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT: 1. AS YOU KNOW MY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE PROPOSALS MADE AT THE NADREPS MEETING ON 21 FEBRUARY AND A SUBSEQUENT SUGGESTION BY THE IS QUOTED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF YOUR NOTE, MR. CHAIRMAN, DS/ASG(77)144 FOR A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO OPPOSING VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF THE RESPECTIVE INTERESTS OF THE TSG AND THE SINGLE SERVICE MAIN ARMAMENT GROUPS.

2. HAVING AGAIN FULLY REVIEWED THE WHOLE MATTER, THE UK NAD HAS TOLD ME THAT CONSISTENT WITH THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE CNAD LAST OCTOBER, HE BELIEVES THAT:

- (A) THE TSG SHOULD ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS THAT COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE DEALT WITH ON A MULTI-SERVICE BASIS;
- (B) IT SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY AT THE OUTSET TO PRESSING MATTERS OF A MULTI-SERVICE CHARACTER, SUCH AS JTIDS, IFF, NAVSTAR;
- (C) THIS WOULD MEAN SOME WORK WILL BE TRANSFERRED NOW FROM SINGLE-SERVICE GROUPS;
- (D) OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THE TSG WILL ASSUME MORE AND MORE RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE OF THE HOMOGENEOUS NATURE OF COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS BUSINESS;
- (E) HOWEVER, THE TSG SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH MATTERS

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WHICH CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY BE DEALT WITH IN SINGLE-SERVICE GROUPS.

3. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE POSITIONS OF OTHER NATIONS AS STATED TO DATE, ON THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE TORS, BUT WE STILL CONSIDER THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE TOTAL CNAD ORGANISATION THAT WE INCLUDE SOME WORDING IN THE TORS THAT LIMITS THE ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE GROUP TO ISSUES FOR WHICH DISCUSSIONS IN A SINGLE-SERVICE FORUM WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT. THE UK IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE IS PROPOSAL FOR AN ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH TO FOLLOW PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE TORS - WHICH MAKES SENSIBLE PROVISION FOR A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TSG AND THE SERVICE MAGS (THIS IS THE TEXT QUOTED AT PARAGRAPH 6 OF YOUR NOTE 144). HOWEVER, WE FEEL THAT TO SAFEGUARD THE CONTINUING INTERESTS OF THE SINGLE SERVICE GROUPS WE SHOULD STILL ADD TO THE END OF PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE TORS THE SENTENCE "IS WILL NOT PROCESS MATTERS WHICH CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY BE HANDLED IN EXISTING BODIES EG THE SINGLE SERVICE MAIN ARMAMENT GROUPS." (THIS IS THE FINAL PART OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF YOUR NOTE 144.)

4. IF, IN THE INTERESTS OF A COMPROMISE, OTHER NATIONS

CAN ACCEPT THESE AMENDMENTS THE UK WOULD NOT PUSH FOR
OTHER AMENDMENTS TO PARAGRAPH 2(THOUGH I TAKE IT THE
AMENDMENTS WE PROPOSED EARLIER TO PARAGRAPH 9 ARE
ALREADY AGREED), AND I AM SURE WOULD ALSO ACCEPT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 2022

SECDEF FOR OASD(ISA), OASD(C3-I), ODDR&E(IP)

MAJORITY VIEW THAT PANEL VIII OF THE NAAG WOULD BECOME
FORMALLY SUBORDINATE TO THE TSG THOUGH AVAILABLE TO
ADVISE THE NAAG AND INDEED THE OTHER SERVICE GROUP ON
SINGLE SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS MATTERS.

5. I DO NOT EXPECT OF COURSE MR CHAIRMAN THAT MY
COLLEAGUES WILL ALL BE IN A POSITION TO AGREE TO THIS
WITHOUT REFERRING BACK TO THEIR AUTHORITIES, THOUGH I
HOPE THEY WILL GIVE THIS IDEA SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION
SO THAT THE TSG CAN BE ESTABLISHED AND START WORK ON THE
URGENT AND NON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. HOWEVER SINCE WE
ARE COMING CLOSE TO THE CNAD AT THE END OF APRIL AND
WE CAN NOT KNOW IF ALL WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND BY THEN
I SUGGEST THAT YOUR SHOULD UPDATE THE SUMMARY OF THE
POSITION IN YOUR NOTE 144 INTO A REPORT FOR CNAD AND
ANNEX TO IT A COPY OF THE DRAFT TORS WITH THESE TWO
AMENDMENTS SHOWN IN SQUARE BRACKETS. IF NECESSARY THE
NADS CAN THEN DISCUSS IT ON THE BASIS OF THIS SINGLE
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POSITION PAPER AT CNAD. IF OTHERS WISHED SIR CLIFFORD
CORNFORD WOULD BE WILLING TO INTRODUCE ANY DISCUSSION
ON 26 APRIL. END UNCLASSIFIED TEXT.

3. AFTER COMMENTING THAT THE UK POSITION REPRESENTED A
CONSIDERABLE COMPROMISE, THE CHAIRMAN(ASYG(DS) LA BERGE)
ASKED FOR NADREP COMMENTS. THE NIL NADREP STATED THAT
IN HIS OPINION THE UK POSITION WAS NO COMPROMISE AT ALL;
THAT ALTHOUGH THE WORDING HAD CHANGED, THE UK RETAINED
THEIR POSITION THAT SINGLE SERVICE ISSUES COULD BE MORE
EFFECTIVELY HANDLED IN EXISTING BODIES SUCH AS THE
SINGLE SERVICE MAIN ARMAMENT GROUPS. HE QUESTIONED WHO
THESE BODIES WOULD BE IF PANEL VIII WERE TRANSFERRED TO
THE TSG, ASKING IF THE NAAG WOULD THEN CREATE A NEW
COMMUNCIATIONS GROUP. THE CHAIRMAN RESPONDED BY STATING
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UK WAS CLEARLY SUGGESTING THAT
PANEL VIII FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE TSG, BUT
BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVICE TO THE NAAG(CONFIRMED BY THE
UK REP).

4. THE BELGIAN NADREP STATED THAT IF THAT WERE THE
CASE, THEN HE WAS CONFUSED BECUASE THE WORDING OF PARA
2(E) AND PARA 4 OF THE UK PAPER (QUOTED ABOVE) WAS
CONTRADICTORY. PARA 4 SUGGESTED THAT PANEL VIII,UNDER
SUPERVISION OF THE TSG, ADVISE THE NAAG ON SINGLE SERVICE
MATTERS, YET PARA 2(E) STATED THAT THE TSG WOULD NOT
PROCESS MATTERS WHICH COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY BE HANDLED
IN SINGLE SERVICE GROUPS. HE ASKED THE UK NADREP TO
CLARIFY THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION.

5. THE UK NADREP STATED THAT PARA 2(E) WAS OF A GENERAL
NATURE AND DID NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO PANEL VIII.
NEITHER THE CHAIRMAN NOR THE UK NADREP COULD FURTHER
CLARIFY THE CONTRADICTION.

6. THE NL NADREP AGAIN REPEATED HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE
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UK WORDING TO BE A COMPROMISE, AND SUGGESTED THAT
ACCEPTANCE OF THE UK POSITION WOULD MERELY POSTPONE
THE PROBLEM AND CAUSE ENDLESS ARGUMENTS IN THE FUTURE
ABOUT WHETHER AN ISSUE WAS MULTI-SERVICE OR SINGLE-
SERVICE IN NATURE.

7. THE NORWEGIAN NADREP SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER BE
FORWARDED TO THE CNAD FOR RESOLUTION. CHAIRMAN
LABERGE SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD DRAFT A NADREP REPORT
TO THE CNAD, AND WOULD TABLE THE REPORT FOR DISCUSSION
AND ACCEPTANCE AT THE 18 APRIL NADREP MEETING.

8. THE CANADIAN NADREP REPORTED THAT HE COULD NOW LIFT
CANADA'S RESERVATION AND THAT CANADA COULD NOW AGREE TO
TRANSFER OF PANEL VIII TO THE TSG.

9. THE US NADREP REPEATED THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY
BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS ABOUT THE STATUS OF PANEL

VIII ON SINGLE SERVICE MATTERS, AND ASKED WHO WOULD
RESOLVE WHETHER AN ISSUE WAS SINGLE-SERVICE OR TRI-
SERVICE IN NATURE. CHAIRMAN LABERGE TERMINATED DISCUS-
SION AT THIS POINT WITHOUT PURSUING THE US QUESTION.

10. WE WILL COMMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING AND
REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR THE 18 APRIL MEETING VIA SEPTEL.

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